Indian Airlines' agreement with Airbus Industry

1487. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Indian Airlines (re-christened "Indian") has signed an agreement with Airbus Industry for purchase of 43 new aircraft as part of its fleet expansion plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the type(s) of aircraft proposed to be purchased, the time-frame fixed for their delivery and tentative allocation for their deployment in different regions; and

(c) to what extent the expanded fleet is expected to boost the "Indian" considering its fall in the market share, especially when private airlines are also expanding their respective fleets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has executed an Agreement with Airbus Industry on 20th February, 2006 for purchase of 43 Airbus aircraft comprising 19 A-319, 4 A-320 and 20 A-321 powered with CFM International engines. These aircraft are scheduled to be delivered during November, 2006 and March, 2010. The aircraft will be deployed on the overall Network of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air.

(c) The induction of new aircraft is envisaged to replace the entire fleet of 3 A-300 and 11 B-737-200 aircraft in a phased manner and also to augment capacity to cater to the increase in traffic. The new aircraft will help Indian Airlines to step up growth and modernisation, expand its market and further improve the quality of its product offering.

International Air Services from Hyderabad

1488. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made or already made in the last three years to operate more direct flights to major cities of the world from Hyderabad; and

(b) the status of such efforts and proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) During the last three years, Hyderabad has been granted as point of call for the designated airlines of Australia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, France and Thailand apart from UAE, Qatar, Oman, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia.